

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating usable with a fuel cell stack, comprising:
  - providing a fuel flow to the fuel cell stack to produce power, at least some of the power produced by the fuel cell stack being consumed by a first load;
  - in response to a decrease in at least one of the power produced by the fuel cell stack and the power consumed by the first load, determining whether to route at least some of the power produced by the fuel cell stack and not consumed by the first load to a second load; and
  - based on the determination, selectively routing said at least some of the power produced by the fuel cell stack and not consumed by the first load to the second load.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining comprises:
  - determining whether the second load is capable of receiving said at least some of the power produced by the fuel cell stack and not consumed by the first load.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein
  - the second load comprises a battery; and
  - the determining comprises determining whether the battery is capable of being charged using said power produced by the fuel cell stack and not consumed by the first load.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein
  - the second load comprises a battery; and
  - the selectively routing comprises selectively charging the battery based on the determination.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the charging comprises regulating a terminal voltage of the battery to cause the battery to charge.

FAX RECEIVED  
MAR 04 2003  
GROUP 1700

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
decreasing the fuel flow in response to the detection of the decrease.

7. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the routing occurs until  
the fuel flow is decreased to a level at which the power routed to the second load is  
approximately zero.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein  
the providing comprises operating a fuel processor to provide the fuel flow.

Claims 9-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Added) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
selectively routing said at least some of the power produced by the fuel cell stack and not  
consumed by the first load between the second load and an oxidizer.